

**PHOTINIA SERRATIFOLIA (ROSACEAE)  
NATURALIZED IN TEXAS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Voucher documentation is provided for plants of *Photinia serratifolia* naturalized in Tarrant Co, Texas. Naturalized plants also occur in Parker Co. and Travis Co., as indicated by online photos and locality documentation by the Citizen Science program of Invaders of Texas. *Phytologia* 90(3): 375-377 (December, 2008).

**KEY WORDS:** *Photinia serratifolia*, naturalized, Texas

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*Photinia serratifolia* (Desf.) Kalkm. (Chinese photinia, Chinese hawthorn) is documented here as occurring outside of cultivation in Texas. Online photographic documentation (see below) exists for its occurrence in Texas, but there are no herbarium records at SMU-BRIT (pers. obs.), TEX-LL (Flora of Texas Database 2008), TAES (S.L. Hatch pers. comm.), or TAMU (M.D. Reed pers. comm.). The species was mapped by Turner et al. (2003), but the records apparently all were based on cultivated plants.

VOUCHERS: Tarrant Co. Fort Worth: Alton Road, immediately W of TCU campus, edge of vacant lot among houses, with *Prunus caroliniana*, *Celtis laevigata*, multi-stemmed shrub 12 feet tall, 10 feet wide, 8 May 2008, Nesom FW08-03 (TEX, US). City park walking trail paralleling Overton Park Drive West and Overton Creek, just N of Ranch View crossing, shrubby margin between creek and trail, with *Ligustrum sinense*, *Ligustrum lucidum*, *Bumelia lanuginosa*, *Acer negundo*, *Cornus drummondii*, single young plant 2 feet tall, leaves sharply and coarsely toothed, 8 May 2008, Nesom FW08-04 (TEX).

*Photinia serratifolia* and *P. x fraseri* Dress (red tip) are among plants listed by the Invaders of Texas (2008) Citizen Science early

detection program. These are species “known to occur in or around Texas that are suspected of causing invasive problems.” Of the three Texas records for *P. x fraseri*, one is clearly *P. serratifolia* (the same record also listed for that species) and the other two appear to be planted, persistent hedges of *P. glabra*. Numerous observations are posted for *P. serratifolia*—from Parker County, Tarrant County, and Travis County. From Tarrant Co., the Overton Park record is the same plant vouchered here by *Nesom FW08-04*; the other two are from the Fort Worth Nature Center. The Parker Co. record is from Holland Lake Park in Weatherford. Eleven records from Travis Co. are all from the Bull Creek area in northwest Austin. Habitats of these plants are open woods, thickets, disturbed sites, and creek beds and creek banks. The Web site for the City of Austin in Travis Co. (Austin City Connection 2008) includes “Chinese Photinia” among “plants that have already invaded preserves and greenbelts in Austin.”

*Photinia serratifolia* is native to China (including Taiwan), Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and India. It is reported by the PLANTS Database (USDA-NRCS 2008) to be naturalized in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

*Photinia glabra* (Thunb.) Maxim. (Japanese photinia) appears to be considerably more abundant in Fort Worth than *P. serratifolia*, particularly in recent plantings. It is highly fecund but there is no evidence of its escape from cultivation here, although it is reported to be naturalized in Louisiana (USDA-NRCS 2008). *Photinia glabra* is native to China, Japan, Myanmar, and Thailand and is naturalized in New Zealand and Australia.

The two species can be distinguished by the following contrasts (Nesom in press):

1. Leaf blades (6–)9–20 cm, lateral veins 20–30 pairs, margins usually sharply serrate, sometimes serrate to serrulate; young leaves green with reddish tinge; corymbs 10–18 cm wide.... **Photinia serratifolia**
1. Leaf blades 5–9 cm, lateral veins 10–15(–18) pairs, margins crenate-serrulate to serrulate; young leaves red to copper-red; corymbs 4–10 cm wide..... **Photinia glabra**

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Citizen Scientists of the Invaders of Texas program provide a remarkable service in documenting invasive species. Each record is documented with a close-up and habit photo and the precise location is provided for each. *Photinia* records—Parker Co.: Marilyn Sallee; Tarrant Co.: Karan Rawlins and Marilyn Sallee; Travis Co.: David Nicosia, Kevin Stockton, Jim Weber, and Lynne Weber. I'm grateful to Stephan Hatch (TAES) and Monique Dubrulle Reed (TAMU) for checking for herbarium records. An account, with updates, of non-native species documented since 1980 as occurring in Texas is at <<http://guynesom.com/>>.

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